

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 6, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 93

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan

February 11, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 93, as amended, Buchanan. Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2014 as Drug Abuse Awareness Month in California, and encourage all citizens to participate in prevention programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill.”

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, There were more deaths caused by drug overdoses
- 2 in 2010 than traffic accidents among people 25 to 64 years of age;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 2010, drug overdoses in the United States of
- 5 America caused 38,329 deaths and 22,134 of those deaths were
- 6 from prescription drugs; and
- 7 WHEREAS, In 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans 12
- 8 years of age or older used an illicit drug or abused a prescription
- 9 drug in the past month; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
2 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals, an increase
3 of 98.4 percent since 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs
5 health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health care
6 costs; and

7 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
8 now exceed more deaths than heroin and cocaine combined; and

9 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
10 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
11 doctor; and

12 WHEREAS, During the last seven National Prescription Drug
13 Take Back Days, a total of 3.4 million pounds of medication were
14 removed from circulation and potential diversion by the Drug
15 Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its state, local, and tribal
16 law enforcement, and community partners. ~~The Contra Costa~~
17 ~~County Board of Supervisors support April 26, 2014, as “National~~
18 ~~Prescription Drug Take Back Day,” as declared by the DEA, and~~
19 ~~encourages residents to locate their collection site and safely~~
20 ~~dispose of their accumulated unwanted and unused prescription~~
21 ~~drugs; and~~

22 WHEREAS, The 2013 National Drug Control Study listed four
23 interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which was
24 to provide safe drug disposal by increasing return and take-back
25 programs. We support California acquiring a sustainably funded
26 and well publicized statewide medication take-back system that
27 is much more convenient to consumers than the current one-day
28 events or disposal at hazardous waste facilities; and

29 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
30 Abuse, ~~the Contra Costa County Prescription Drug Abuse~~
31 ~~Prevention Coalition, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board~~
32 ~~in cooperation with the Contra Costa Behavioral Health Division’s~~
33 ~~Alcohol and Other Drugs Services, the Contra Costa County Youth~~
34 ~~Health Coalition,~~ law enforcement, community-based
35 organizations, alcohol and other drug service providers, and civic
36 and business leaders coordinate Prescription Drug Abuse
37 Awareness Month activities in ~~the County of Contra Costa and~~
38 California to engage our citizens in demonstrating their
39 commitment to prevention campaigns and education aimed at
40 raising awareness about the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs,

1 promoting prescription drug safe storing and disposal, and using
2 medications only as prescribed; and

3 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
4 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and
5 local governments, health care practitioners, and pharmacists in
6 ~~the County of Contra Costa~~, the state, and the general public will
7 demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription
8 medication abuse by participating in activities intended to highlight
9 local efforts during the month of March; and

10 WHEREAS, ~~The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors~~
11 ~~and the Legislature support~~ *supports* April 26, 2014, as National
12 Prescription Drug Take-Back Day as declared by the DEA, and
13 encourage residents to locate their local collection site and safely
14 dispose of their accumulated unwanted and unused prescription
15 drugs; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby declare March
18 2014, as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and
19 encourages all citizens to actively participate in prevention
20 programs and activities, and to safely store and dispose of their
21 medications on a continual basis, and to encourage all community
22 members to pledge, “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill”; and
23 be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.